The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"Opinion, let me alone; I am not thine."—Sidney Lanier.

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COMPANY "UNION" RESTS ON UNSOUND BASE

A magazine published in the interests of railway executives warns these officials to be cautious in the management of their company "unions," lest employes be driven into bona fide labor organizations.

It is suggested that subordinate officials be instructed to also be careful in their use of these "unions."

Organized labor can not strengthen this indictment against the company "union."

Herein is an acknowledgment that power comes from above and that workers are subject to the whim of employers under the new system, just as when the employer publicly professed his anti-unionism.

Generalities and a dazzling vocabulary on "employes' representation" may conceal, but will not remove, the basic tyranny of the company "union."

Forms of an organization are nothing, when the base does not rest on ideals of equality and freedom of choice.

The warning to railway executives is another proof of the historic truth that no man or group of men can be trusted with too much power. The operation of this natural law drove workers into trade unions. This law affects peasant and king, wage worker and capitalist—practically no one is immune.

The trade union movement is against all forms of autocracy, whether it be political, the frank antagonism of Garyism or the opposition through company "unions," that is masked by scholastic phrases and honeyed words.

The company "union" rests on the dishonored principle of autocracy. It would stay the worker's individual expression and his intellectual and moral development by subordinating him to machinery set up and controlled by the employer.

To call this an "experiment in co-operation" is school-girl declamation.

Trade unionists declare that no one is good enough to direct their lives. They insist on the right to confer between themselves without outside dictation.

Their insist on choosing their own representatives, of selecting trained negotiators who can cope with skilled attorneys and expert accountants in their employer's pay.

Through unfettered organization they acquire an intelligence, an independence and a confidence that is reflected in every field of social activity.

Under the company "union" plan they remain inferiors. Manhood can not develop in such an atmosphere.

VETERANS RIDICULE "HUMANE WAR" TALK

Washington, Nov. 27.—When a nation has its back to the wall it will fight with every available weapon, regardless of agreements. There is no such thing as "humane war."

This summarizes the opposition of the American Legion to the Geneva agreement prohibiting the use of poison gas in warfare. The protest was filed with President Coolidge.

The Legionaires declare that gas was effective during the World War, and they ridicule the claim that war can be made humane. "The very nature of war prevents it from being humane," they say.

"The history of warfare shows conclusively that where the national unity of a nation is threatened, that nation will make use of every effective weapon at its command, regardless of agreements.

"In future wars our enemies might be either allowed to use gas freely, or might make use of it notwithstanding conventions entered into on the subject. The great danger to our national defense, and perhaps our independence as a nation, through the deliberate casting aside of this effective weapon, should be apparent to all."

The statement calls attention to the fact that all the great nations have not signed the anti-gas protocol and that none of those signing it have announced that they have ratified it.

SELF-INTEREST WORKS WONDERS

Economic and political beliefs in the wheat, corn and cotton states are changing.

Bankers and business men have joined with agriculturalists in rejecting the theory of individualism. They now ask government aid in setting prices. Too much production and low prices caused the change.

These groups differ on detail, but they are agreed that production is no longer a matter of individual judgment; that output should be regulated by collective action and that the government should assist in disposing of farm product surpluses.

In certain southern states the pendulum of individualism and personal liberty has swung so far to the other extreme that state regulation of the amount of cotton to be planted is urged.

This changed viewpoint should remind workers that our social organism is not an inflexible, rigid machine, but is a thing of constant change that should be studied and directed.

Our trade unions are a unit of this organism, and are likewise subject to the driving power of life, of development.

Men who ignored this iron law now abandon the theory of "each man for himself," and even insist that the government tell farmers how much cotton and wheat and corn they shall raise.

Self-interest works wonders.

When this is recalled one can better understand why representatives and senators in the next Congress will discard cherished ideals.

WHO WILL CONTROL POWER TRUST?

By SENATOR GEORGE F. NORRIS

The monopoly of water and electrical power is inevitable. It is coming, no matter how much anyone else think about it. It will make possible a new world—an industry where most of the drudgery shall be eliminated and a domestic economy that will release women for other tasks and a new leisure.

It will be the most powerful monopoly ever known and it is just unthinkable that we will allow it to be privately controlled. It should be publicly owned and stock juggling should be eliminated and all private profit excluded. And the present is your and our lives' comfort to a small group of private owners. And make no mistake about it, they will grind us. That is human nature. Give men unchecked power and they abuse it.

There is yet time to secure public control of valuable water power sites. That time, with its golden opportunity, will not last forever, though; and when once the private monopoly arrives, it will be too late. We shall have signed away control of our lives and our lives' comfort to a small group of private owners. And make no mistake about it, they will grind us. That is human nature. Give men unchecked power and they abuse it.

GREATER PRODUCTION HASTENS 5-DAY WEEK

Washington, Nov. 27.—Sentiment for a five-day work week is increasing, said James O'Connell, president of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, at a meeting of the navy wage review board that is considering wage decisions by local boards in various navy yards and naval stations.

Mr. O'Connell called attention to mechanical developments and greater efficiency and productivity in the industrial field. These, he said, are driving the country toward the five-day goal, and he suggested that the review board give consideration to this question. The board consists of Capt. F. H. Clark, chairman; F. S. Curtis, chief clerk of the navy department, and A. M. Berres, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department.

"There are 40,000 workers in these navy yards and naval stations at the present time," Mr. O'Connell said. "In the Washington navy yard, the finest and most complete machine shop in the world, 3,000 are employed. The yard has a capacity for 18,000 employes. In the Brooklyn and other yards, the same proportion prevails.

"There is no reason why shipping board and war department vessels are not repaired in these yards, instead of by private concerns. Equipment for the ships could also be manufactured by the government in its own machine plants for the same cost, at least, as that charged by private firms. This would check plant deterioration and would train men for any emergency."

ATTORNEY DEBARRED; IN WHEELER FRAME-UP

Washington, Nov. 27.—Disbarment of George B. Hayes, New York attorney, from practice before the Treasury Department is announced by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Hayes was the government's star witness in the unsuccessful prosecution of Senator Wheeler two years ago. The Montana senator denounced Hayes as a perjurer and party to a frame-up against him. This charge was sustained by a senate committee and by a Montana jury.

CITIES ARE NOT LIABLE UNDER COMPENSATION LAW

Austin, Texas, Nov. 27.—Incorporated cities and towns of Texas are not within the terms of the state compensation act, according to the State Supreme Court.

The decision upholds a similar ruling by the attorney general's department, 13 years ago. The court said that the attorney general's opinion is not controlling with the court, but that it is "persuasive."

N. Y. SOCIAL WORKERS RAP REFORM SCHOOLS

Buffalo, Nov. 27.—Reform schools were criticised at the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction. These institutions are "dumping grounds" for community failures, said Miss Mary Palevsky, executive director of the Jewish Social Service Bureau of Brooklyn.

"The subsequent failure of children discharged from institutions of this character," continued Miss Palevsky, "is a significant fact. Work with delinquents requires a very high psychological and psychiatric training and study of each child. Special training also is necessary, yet the greatest part of the funds spent by institutions is spent in making the children scrub floors and in other ways contribute to their maintenance.

"Wherever possible, institutions of this kind should not be expected to support themselves. The children committed should be classified and each classification should be kept by itself. Complete programs for the training of character and personality and of recreation should be adopted."

Supreme Court Justice Harris said a definite evil was created in private social agencies by persons who contribute large sums and thereby control the policies of such organizations, ignoring the advice of trained workers who are rich in experience but poor in pocket.

"I have never believed," he said, "that wisdom is the sole property of the wealthy."

FOOD PRICES GO UP

Washington, Nov. 27.—Food prices increased a little less than 1 per cent between September 15 and October 15, this year, reports the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The largest increase in 41 cities was 2 per cent, in Denver and Newark. Three cities showed decreases—Seattle, 1 per cent; Minneapolis and Savannah, one-half of 1 per cent. There was no change in Rochester and Minneapolis.

CAN REGULATE BUILDINGS

Washington, Nov. 27.—The Supreme Court has ruled that Euclid, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, has the right to regulate the erection of buildings. The court stated that the decision only applies to the case in question, and that each zoning ordinance must be determined by local conditions. The principle, however, is upheld.

PAY RAISE ON U. P.

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 27.—The anti-union Union Pacific railroad has raised wages of its shop men 2 cents an hour. This is in line with the Pennsylvania, Delaware & Hudson and other anti-union railroads after organized shop men on the New York Central and Baltimore & Ohio were successful.

DAWES-FOR-PRESIDENT "FEELER" THROWN OUT

Washington, Nov. 27.—Is the stage being set for nominating Vice President Dawes for president if President Coolidge is not a candidate for renomination?

The former head of the "Minute Men of the Constitution" is a talkative chap of late. In his last campaign he ventured the opinion that the direct primary system should be abolished, but outside of this alibi for standpatism, he was silent.

A new "Hellenmaria" is presented by Norman Hapgood in a carefully written three-column, copyright article published in the Hearst newspapers. Dawes is pictured as a man of refinement, culture, of wonderful abilities, and whose probity has been overdrawn by newspapers.

The article would appear to be a "ground breaker," or a "feeler" for popular sentiment. Its cautious spirit is indicated by the following:

"Assuredly, there are a lot of people who would like to have General Dawes in the White House. I knew some reasons before a talk of over two hours that I have had with the vice president. I understand it still better now, because personal charm is something much better felt for one's self than learned about by hearsay. With personal charm, if I am any judge, the vice president fairly reeks."

IS INSTALLMENT BUYING AN EVIL? CONTRARY VIEWS BY OBSERVERS

Washington, Nov. 27.—Is installment buying an evil or a benefit to the country?

Senator Couzens of Michigan says it is wrong in principle, while speaking at the New York meeting of the Academy of Political Science declared the system stimulates thrift and production, when properly applied.

Bankers and economists agreed that installment buying is here to stay and that its evils must be corrected through study.

John J. Raskob, chairman of the finance committee of the General Motors Corporation, said:

"The records show that they (automobiles) have not been acquired at the expense of home savings, life insurance or other factors in economic welfare. The desire for automobiles is sufficiently great to inspire people to work. In principle, installment purchasing is a natural evolution of credit. As a credit development it must be administered upon the same principles as all good credit. Experience with consumer credit has proved it a sound and healthy thing when properly used and not abused. High consumption results in high production. High production insures employment. High production and consumption bring about a higher degree of individual progress and happiness."

In an interview with the Washington bureau of the Wall Street Journal, Senator Couzens said that installment buying is one of the greatest factors in the high cost of living.

"The purchase of homes, well-selected real estate or sound securities or any other commodity that appreciates in value, is sound, but to buy things that wear out or rapidly depreciate in value, on the same basis as you would buy a home is economically unsound," he said.

From data compiled from the Federal Trade Commission, Senator Couzens has figured that under the installment plan the additional cost of an article such as furniture, clothing, radio, electric supplies is from 15 to 30 per cent above the price in cash.

"The argument that it is better to pay out of each week's or each month's wages, rather than to use savings or 'nest eggs,' is a fallacious one which must appear so when you consider that your savings are perhaps drawing 3 or 4 per cent interest in the bank while you are paying out of your earnings from 15 to 30 per cent," Senator Couzens said.

MISSOURI IN LINE; HAS COMPENSATION

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27.—Governor Baker has appointed a commission that will administer the new compensation law and this state has finally joined the ranks of compensation-law commonwealths.

The act was passed by the legislature, but ambulance-chasing lawyers and the casualty companies forced its submission to a state-wide referendum. The people approved the measure by a large majority. Organized labor, aided by President Green of the A. F. of L., led the fight for approval.

CREDIT UNIONS GROW; AID LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Washington, Nov. 27.—The growth of credit unions has been rapid in this country during recent years, according to an article in the November issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Ordinarily in an unexpected emergency, the wage earner or man on a small salary who has little or no tangible security, finds it difficult to secure a loan, it is stated. The credit union, often called the "poor man's bank," meets this need. There were 284 active credit unions in existence in 29 states in 1925, and in the same period 24 states enacted legislation authorizing co-operative credit societies. Although the majority of the unions were formed in the last five years, the membership of 179 reporting organizations numbered almost 108,000 in 1925. The share capital amounted to approximately $11,000,000 and the loans to more than $20,000,000.

SELECT ARBITRATION

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—After one year's negotiation over wages, the Typographical Union and newspaper publishers selected Charles A. Shurtleff, former justice of the State Supreme Court, to be fifth arbitrator.

TRADES AND THEIR RELATION TO HEALTH

By MISS NELLE SWARTZ

Director, Bureau of Women in Industry, New York State Department of Labor

Lead, arsenic, mercury, benzol and carbon monoxide are the most common poisons to which industrial workers are exposed.

Printers, painters and plumbers are exposed to lead poisoning. Arsenic poisoning affects employes in gold and silver refineries, copper and brass foundries, dye works and glass factories. Workers may be exposed to mercury poisoning in making thermometers, hats and explosives. Benzol is used in the pasting of rubber and leather and in the sealing of tin cans.

Chronic monoxide is one of the commonest types of occupational diseases and may occur in any type of kiln or furnaces, gas-heating devices and improperly maintained heating arrangements. Among the forms of poisoning one of the most frequent causes of chronic headache, which also may be associated with weakness and disturbances of appetite and digestion.

Health and life are influenced to a considerable extent by the kind of work one does. Figures show (what common sense tells us) that outdoor occupations are, in the main, the most healthful. Farm laborers, for example, average a longer life than any industrial group. On the other hand, workers exposed to lead have the highest sickness and death rates.

Sickness which is caused by a specific occupation or industry, for which the process is wholly or partially responsible, is called an occupational disease. Some industries are almost entirely free from occupational disease and in others it exists to an extent often unrealized.

Occupational diseases may be roughly divided into two classes: Those which are caused by poisoning and those which are caused by dust.

The easiest way to detect the possibility of the occurrence of occupational disease is to learn what substances are used in the manufacturing process. Unfortunately this information is often not readily obtained until cases of poisoning occur in the plant.

If it is found that poison is used in a manufacturing process, steps can be taken either to eliminate the poison immediately and substitute something else, or to remove the poisonous fumes from the workshop by means of exhausts and ventilating hoods.

The encouraging thing about sickness caused by conditions of work is that practically all of the causes for such illness can be removed. In other words, any industry can, with a fair degree of accuracy, control its own sickness rate.

PEACE BETWEEN MEN RESTS ON MUTUALITY

New York, Nov. 27.—"Peace between nations or individuals must find its origin in the minds of men. It can only be firmly established when people think in terms of peace," said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in speaking at the annual banquet of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

"The industrial life of a nation and of the world is so merged with its political and social life that strife in industry materially affects the peace and happiness of national and international life," Mr. Green said.

"If peace is to be maintained among those associated with the industrial life of the nation they must think in terms of co-operation, understanding and mutuality. This involves a recognition of the rights of workers to constitute the human forces of industry. There can be no reciprocal relationship where one industrial group attempts to deny to another group the exercise of a legal or a moral right. Such an attempt fosters ill will, resentment and antagonism.

"Collective bargaining is advocated by working people as a means through which industrial peace can be promoted, but the success of collective bargaining is predicated upon the exercise of collective action. There can be no collective bargaining where employers deny the exercise of this expression, or where, by indirection or force, workers are denied the exercise of the right of voluntary association or freedom of choice."

President Green said that the causes for bitterness, strife, criminal waste and industrial warfare can be removed if employers and employed reach a collective understanding of the place each will occupy in the management, control and operation of industry.

MINERS WANT OWN UNION

Walsenberg, Col., Nov. 27.—Coal miners in southern Colorado, birthplace of the company "union," are agitating for the United Mine Workers. Large mass meetings are being held by workers who insist on controlling their own affairs.

Diplomatic Change May Harm U. S. Prestige In Latin America

Washington, Nov. 27.—American prestige south of the Rio Grande and in Europe may be impaired because of Secretary of State Kellogg's reversal on the present Nicaraguan situation, according to Santiago Iglesias, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

General Chamorro of the Nicaraguan army seized that government a year and a half ago. At the request of Nicaraguan trade unionists, President Green of the A. F. of L. made representations to Secretary Kellogg against this overthrow of constitutional methods and against recognition of the usurper. Secretary Kellogg replied that "the United States government has not recognized and will not recognize the regime headed by General Chamorro."

Since then Chamorro established himself at the head of the Nicaraguan army and placed Adolfo Diaz in the office of president. The new official, who is declared to be the directing head of Chamorro, has been recognized by Secretary Kellogg.

In a letter to Mr. Kellogg, T. S. Vaca, personal representative of Dr. J. B. Sacasa, the deposed constitutional president, charges Diaz with being an agent of New York bankers.

"It is notorious that Adolfo Diaz has been a moral accomplice of the Chamorro clique in the development of the conspiracy that has felled orderly government and public decency, bringing the spectre of foreign intervention to the door of that unfortunate country," Mr. Vaca said.

"Under that agreement all parties pledged not to recognize a situation such as has developed in Nicaragua. The purpose of the agreement was to check periodical revolutions in those countries that have been financed by special interests.

"Any one acquainted with the temperament of Latin America will appreciate the far-reaching and harmful effect Mr. Kellogg's latest position will have on these peoples. Every diplomat and observing newspaper in Europe is also acquainted with the American government's new position on the Washington pact that was founded on good will between the nations and on a continuance of constitutional methods."

FREE LEGAL AID FOR POOR HELD TO BE SOCIAL NEED

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 27.—In the interest of justice and social stability, free legal aid is necessary for those who are unable to employ lawyers, declared William Reynolds Vance, professor of law in the Yale Law School.

"No industrial order is so strong, nor secret organization so firm that it can long survive serious injustice upon any considerable group within," Prof. Vance said. "It is time the stage is set quite bravely. The general scheme of our law is admirable for its impartiality, but let us look at the reality behind these words.

"It is obvious that provision must be made for free and easily accessible legal advice to poor litigants, who stand bewildered before the complexities of the law, as do, indeed, many of their more experienced and capable fellow citizens. There should be a legal aid office where persons unable to employ an attorney could go for advice as to their civil rights in the difficult situations that must inevitably arise in such an active and complicated social order as ours.

"There should be set up courts specially organized for the summary disposition of petty disputes which shall be as cheap as to all without fees or other costs and so informal in procedure that a poor litigant could obtain what justice he might be entitled without the aid of an attorney by simply telling his story to the judge.

"The procedure in these courts should be so summary that the relief granted would follow almost immediately on complaint made."

COLORED GIRLS AIDED BY CHICAGO UNIONISTS

Chicago, Nov. 27.—The local Federation of Labor has supplemented its support of colored girls on strike against the Maras Date and Fig Factory by issuing an appeal for financial and moral support to leading colored clergymen. The girls were unorganized when they ceased work in protest and will be taken up by trade unionists, who organized them, and are assisting to secure a living wage and better work conditions.

In their appeal to the clergy, the unionists say: "You can appreciate these girls when you learn that under the old rate they received $3.50 per week for beginners and $14 per week for those with two years' experience, and insanitary condition of their employment, one factory having 100 girls and one small sink to wash their hands and work rags. If the general public were acquainted with these conditions, they would not purchase the product of concerns that handle estables in this way.

"The Chicago Federation of Labor expresses appreciation to the ministers who have given their sympathetic support to these colored girls. We believe this will lead to collective bargaining, better standards of life, decent conditions and hasten the day of industrial equality."

FIRE FIGHTERS GAIN; HIGHER WAGES VOTED

Washington, Nov. 27.—Organized fire fighters in Toledo, Atlantic City, Omaha, and Cleveland, Ohio, were successful in securing wage increases through municipal referendums in the recent elections.

Reports to the International Association of Fire Fighters show that the Atlantic City increase to $2,550 a year is the highest in this country, and leads New York City, which pays $2,500. Toledo fire fighters were advanced 20 per cent and Steubenville citizens favored an increase of $30 a month.

WANT TAX EXEMPTION

New York, Nov. 27.—Municipal tax exemption to model tenements erected by the new limited corporations authorized by the state Smith's housing plan is urged by the State Housing Commission.

Single taxers are asking if this is not a squint dangerously near their principle.

WILL ENFORCE PAY DAY LAW

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 27.—The California semi-monthly pay day law is being ignored throughout the state, and State Labor Commissioner Mathewson announces that wholesale arrests will follow. Jail sentences against several of these employers have been secured.

PASSAIC MILL WORKERS MAKE ANOTHER RECORD

Passaic, N. J., Nov. 27.—The Worsted Spinning Company's agreement with striking textile workers is the first to be signed by a textile mill in this district, and is a record in Passaic's stormy industrial life.

When the Worsted Spinning strikers returned to work they found that the plant had been cleaned up, conditions made more sanitary.

The mills still on strike are the Botany Worsted Mills, employing 5,500 workers, and Garfield Worsted, with 1,500 workers, both owned by the same interests; Gera Mills and New Jersey Worsted, operated by the same company and each employing 1,500 workers; United Piece and Dye Works in Lodi, with 4,500 workers, and Dundee Textile Mills, with 800 workers.

WANT FARMERS' BLOC FORMED IN CONGRESS

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27.—Non-partisanship and the bloc system in Congress were approved at the closing session of the Corn and Cotton States' Conference, composed of representatives of 80 farm organizations in 12 states.

Groups based on economic interests have been denounced as "subversive to our government" by Vice President Dawes and others, but this was ignored by the conference. Senators and representatives from the agricultural regions were requested to "organize themselves into an aggressive and effective unit, regardless of party, to express and work for the economic interests of agriculture."

The conference favored the creation of a federal board with power to withhold farm product surpluses from the market and prorate the cost among producers. This is similar to the McNary-Haugen bill which was so bitterly contested in the last Congress.

A feature of the conference was the good will toward organized labor that was expressed by delegates. Not one speaker repeated the unfounded charges against trade unions that formerly brought joy to the special privilege, because they made it impossible for agriculturalists and industrial workers to reach an understanding.

UNIONS' GREATEST GAIN IS MAN'S INDEPENDENCE

Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 27.—The worker's greatest accomplishment through organized effort is the independence he has secured, said Criminal Judge Lusk, in an address in this city.

The jurist cited a long list of gains made by trade unions, but the greatest, he said, was the manly spirit that has been inculcated in workers.

Judge Lusk told of having worked as a railroad clerk before these workers were organized. "We had the eight-hour law then, too," he said. "But the trouble was we had to come back after lunch every day and work eight more."

PAY CLAUSE UPHELD

New York, Nov. 27.—The state labor law providing for payment of the prevailing rate of wages on public works was upheld by Supreme Court Justice Aaron J. Levy.

The court said that the 1906 amendment to the state constitution was intended to set at rest all doubt as to the right of the legislature to "regulate and fix" wages and hours on public works. Wages had not been fixed, he said, but were left undetermined, but it was the duty of public officers to determine the prevailing rate from time to time and regulate wages accordingly.

CARPENTERS ENJOINED

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 27.—Striking carpenters are the latest to feel the power of an injunction court. They are on strike against a large apartment and Judge Marschner orders them to discontinue picketing.

PRINTERS MAKE GAINS

Atlanta, Nov. 27.—Commercial shop printers have secured the 44-hour week. Wages will be $1 an hour with time and one-half for overtime.